

FRIDAY NIGHT FACTS

OFFICE OF FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



MITCHELL E. DANIELS, JR., GOVERNOR
PAULA PARKER-SAWYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AT THIS SPECIAL TIME OF YEAR, WE WANT TO EXPRESS OUR
SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND WISH YOU EVERY
HAPPINESS IN THE YEAR AHEAD. MAY YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON
SHINE BRIGHT WITH HAPPINESS.

From: The OFBCI Staff





Get your New Year off to a great start: BECOME A CHILD'S MENTOR!



Did you know that January is National Mentoring Month? National Mentoring Month is an effort spearheaded by the Harvard Mentoring Project of the Harvard School of Public Health, MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership, and the Corporation for National and Community Service. The goals of National Mentoring Month are recruit new mentors and recognize the impact that mentoring has on the lives of young people. The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is proud to be the Lead Partner for Indiana.

To find out how to become a mentor, or to register your mentoring program, visit www.mentoring.org. The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives encourages all mentoring programs in Indiana to register at this Mentoring website.

To learn about ways to honor a teacher, coach or family member who made a big difference in your life, visit <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/chc/wmy2007/index.html>

If you would like more information on National Mentoring Month, please contact Sarah Bonilla at SBonilla@ofbci.in.gov or 317-234-4287.

Upcoming MLK Day service projects in need of volunteers



Children's Health Day

When: January 15, 2007

Where: First United Methodist Church, 219 E. 4th Street, Fellowship Hall, Bloomington, IN

Contact: City of Bloomington Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, 812-349-3471

Hosted by the Shalom Community Center, Children's Health Day will target families with children who are living in poverty. Mobile Dentists of the Children's Dental Health Foundation and the CHAP Clinic/Healthmobile will participate. There will also be childhood developmental screenings, open enrollment for the CHAP clinic and for the Hoosier Healthwise children's health and dental coverage program. Families who attend will receive packages with essential health-related, family and baby products.

Volunteers are needed to facilitate children's activities, process paperwork for dentists, support participating agencies, and coordinate food service activities. To volunteer, visit www.mlkday.gov.

"Money in Your Pocket"

When: January 27 – April 14, 2007

Where: Wayne Township Trustee Office, 320 E. Superior Street, Fort Wayne, IN

Contact: Volunteer Center @ RSVP, Toll Free 888-219-6868

Certified tax preparers and volunteers will assist low income families in filing their income taxes. Last year, Volunteer Center @ RSVP filed over 1100 tax returns and sent \$1,100,000 to the Allen County community.

Volunteers must receive training, but may become certified online at www.irs.gov, in the "Link and Learn" section. Bilingual Spanish/English volunteers are also needed. To volunteer, visit www.mlkday.gov.

Don't forget to register your service project at www.ofbci.in.gov

Lt. Governor Skillman Remarks on National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

Across the nation yesterday, thousands of Americans gathered to remember the lives that were lost to homelessness. In 2006, Hoosiers died from exposure, hunger and poverty. All conditions associated with homelessness. They were members of our community, and they remind us that every Hoosier – every American – needs access to safe and affordable housing.

As Chair of the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority Board, I understand the importance of caring for our most vulnerable neighbors—especially those without that necessity of life—shelter.

Sixteen years ago, our country initiated this day of remembrance. Yesterday we joined many other cities to remember of our homeless neighbors in Indianapolis. We celebrate their lives and mourn their deaths. As we remember those lives lost, remember that the best means we have of honoring these men and women is to recommit ourselves to ending homelessness. All too often, life on the streets leads to death on the streets.

We honor these men and women by recognizing that homelessness is a chronic and pervasive issue in our nation. In Indianapolis, we are blessed to have the focus and energy of the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP). CHIP reminds us that a truly “World Class City” is one that cares for its most vulnerable neighbors consistently.

We know the problem, and we are working toward a solution. I am proud that Indianapolis is one of a select group of cities nationally that can boast a “10-Year Plan” to end homelessness.

Our state also has a detailed plan to end homelessness. “Indiana’s 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness” outlines effective strategies for empowering the service provider community and for providing resources in a more efficient and streamlined manner.

I am proud of Indiana’s commitment to end homelessness. If we continue to focus on meeting the needs of all of our neighbors, we will honor the memories of those who are no longer with us.

Our mission in state government is to provide all Hoosiers with opportunities to find safe and affordable housing. By doing that, we are strengthening our communities. By strengthening our communities, we are building our future.

In the coming year, let us all remember the lives lost to homelessness. Let’s make a commitment to join together to meet the needs of those who have no place to call home.

